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**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$240,000 GRANT TO**  
**DECAS CRANBERRY PRODUCTS, INC.**

**CARVER, MA** - As part of a grant program to provide funding for economic development, energy and infrastructure projects that help spur investment and create new jobs in rural communities, USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle and Congressman Barney Frank presented a \$240,000 grant check to Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. today after a tour of the company's plant in Carver. "Opening new markets for agricultural products will benefit the economy and this community," State Director Tuttle told a crowd that included Congressman Frank, Representative William Straus, Representative Tom O'Brien, Commissioner Doug Gillespie of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, Representative Elect Susan Williams Gifford and Jeff LaFleur of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, "These funds represent a genuine investment in rural Massachusetts and our commitment to the Value-Added agricultural process. The USDA is pleased to help support innovative producers like Decas," said Tuttle.

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development grant was awarded to Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. in order to fund the company's initiative to create nutritional goods that can be generated from the existing cranberry byproducts of their production line. The grant, coupled with Decas' matching funds, will provide for working capital in the creation of the company's new business operation called, Decas Botanical Synergies (DBS). The venture will create high-quality cranberry powders, oils and other products that will then be utilized in the healthcare, food and nutrition industries. As many as five new jobs will be created as a result of the company's new operation.

"I was glad to have the opportunity to join with my Congressional colleagues in support of this creative proposal by the Decas Company, and I am very pleased that the grant application was approved," said Congressman Barney Frank. "During a time of lower prices within the cranberry industry, it is especially important to develop alternative uses for cranberry byproducts and methods of minimizing waste. This announcement also illustrates the importance of ensuring that we have adequate levels of federal funding for important programs, and I will continue pushing for stronger financial support of the cranberry industry."

In a statement regarding the grant, Senator Edward Kennedy affirmed, "I'm pleased that Decas Cranberry Products has been chosen as a recipient under the USDA Value Added Grant Program. The grant will provide needed capital for Decas Botanical Synergies. This new initiative will assist in developing value-added products for cranberries and create new opportunities for Massachusetts' cranberry growers."

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At the state level, Representatives Bill Straus and Tom O'Brien, along with Commissioner Doug Gillespie of the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, played major roles in support of the grant. "Finding new and innovative uses for this healthy and economically significant crop is of the utmost importance," said State Representative Thomas O'Brien.

"Decas' development of new health and nutrition products will stimulate economic growth in Southeastern Massachusetts and benefit the state as a whole," added State Representative Bill Straus.

"The Decas operation has always been on the cutting edge in Massachusetts agriculture, and we are hopeful that this grant will assist them in additional market opportunities that will benefit the family farms throughout Southeastern Massachusetts. The industry has had several tough years, and USDA's support with this grant is an exciting bright light for everyone," said Commissioner Gillespie.

Local officials from the towns of Wareham and Carver, as well as the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association and Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development district also contributed vital support to the Decas' grant proposal.

Decas Cranberry Products, Inc. has been growing and marketing cranberries and cranberry products for nearly seventy years. The company currently owns more than 500 acres of cranberry bogs, and markets cranberries nationally and internationally for approximately 154 cranberry growers in Massachusetts. Additionally, Decas supplies over 40 million pounds of cranberries and cranberry products to consumers, retailers and food processors each year.

Said Congressman Bill Delahunt in a statement related to the event, "By helping develop new products that appeal to nutrition-conscious consumers, this modest federal investment will enhance the future of our region's cranberry industry and the local families who depend on its success,"

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